

CLAIMS

1. An aircraft wheel assembly including an axle housing means for sensing wheel speed, one end of the axle being covered by a cap member, the cap member comprising a generally cup-like body having an end wall towards the free end of the axle and means for driving the wheel speed sensing means, the side wall of the body having at least one stiffening formation arranged to influence the flow of air around the exposed exterior of the cap member in flight whereby to reduce the level of noise generated.
2. An assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one formation comprises a rib or fin on the side wall of the cup-like body.
3. An assembly according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one formation extends from the end wall to an open end of the cup-like body and increase in thickness towards the open end.
4. An assembly according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein at least one formation is hollow.
5. An assembly according to any preceding Claim, wherein there is a plurality of said surface formations and said formations are spaced substantially evenly about the cap member.
6. An assembly according to any preceding Claim, wherein the cup-like body tapers radially outwardly away from the end wall.
7. An assembly according to any preceding Claim, wherein the axle protrudes beyond a wheel rim of a wheel of the wheel assembly.

8. An assembly according to any preceding Claim, wherein the assembly is a main wheel assembly incorporating tyre pressure sensing means and the cap member includes means for mounting said tyre pressure sensing means.
9. An aircraft incorporating at least one wheel assembly according to any preceding Claim.
10. A hubcap for an aircraft wheel assembly which has an axle housing means for sensing wheel speed and means for sensing tyre pressure, the hub cap comprising a generally cup-like body having an end wall, the body having a mouth and a flange at said mouth for engagement with clamping means by which the hub cap is fixed on to a free end of the axle and a slot extending from the flange into the side wall of the body to receive components of the means for sensing tyre pressure, the inner surface of the end wall having formations for engagement with the wheel speed sensing means, ribs being spaced about the exterior of the side wall of the body.
11. A hubcap according to Claim 10, wherein said ribs are hollow.
12. A hubcap according to Claim 10 or 11, wherein the side wall of the body flares radially outwardly away from the end wall to the flange.